

## NOTES FROM JAPAN.

**T**HROUGH the kindness of Mr. Masayo Kakuzen, who is at present at Trinity College School, Port Hope, but who hopes ere long to take Holy orders and return to Japan as a native missionary, we are enabled to give the following extract (translated by Mr. Kakuzen) from a Japanese paper called the *Nichiyo Soski* (Sunday Magazine), published in Tokyo. As it gives some account of Mr. Waller's mission at Fukushima, it will be of interest to many. The following is the extract:

The mission of Fukushima was started for the first time when Rev. John H. Waller, of Canada came there in March of 1891.

In the whole prefecture of Fukushima, of which Fukushima is the capital, great as it is among prefectures, there were not more than eight native clergymen and catechists (as lay readers are called), and two foreign missionaries until a few months ago. Even those towns which are either situated along the railway track of the Nippon Tetsudo Gwaisha, or are connected by the jinrikisha roads with Fukushima, are almost untouched, though in the neighbouring districts of the other prefectures there are quite a few places where the mission work has been commenced. However, several attempts have been made at Fukushima during the last eleven years. That very little has been done, in spite of such a length of time, is chiefly owing to the fact that those missionary societies which had taken up the mission of this place, were wanting in their perseverance; for those native clergymen, and catechists, and foreign missionaries who were sent here were soon removed to another station, after a short stay varying from two to eight months. It is not right for anybody to blame those people who were successively sent and recalled, for they had each a sufficient reason for their actions. But at the same time, it would be no wonder even, if the people of Fukushima might have such an impression that all the Christian missionaries have no fixed view of what they do. So it is not at all strange that, while a good many people of the town acknowledge that Christianity is, at least, superior to the religions which they are now embracing, they hesitate to profess themselves Christians.

The number of those who have been baptised since the arrival of Rev. Mr. Waller, is not great. Two young people were baptised in last July, and two more, a young man and young woman, are going to be baptised by the time when the present number (October 1) is issued. At both Fukushima and Miharu there are some catechumen, and several who are studying the doctrines, and also at Nihonmatsu there are a good many who are wishing to be baptised. So we have a bright hope that we may be able, by

God's help and blessing, to see a strong mission built here before long. We have nearly finished the fixing the days to visit each of these four great stations so that we may go round in order during the coming winter.

An evening class for the English language has been started at Fukushima and is, seemingly, flourishing.

There used to be a class of handworks (as knitting) for women, which are equally interesting to young and old. So I believe it will be recommenced before long.

The furniture of the preaching places have been gradually obtained, and we are enquiring for a suitable place to build a church. The number of the congregation has lately decreased a little on account of the removal of some of the members who have gone to Tokyo and elsewhere, but the state of this mission is much better in many respects than it used to be.

REV. J. COOPER ROBINSON, who writes us from Nagoya, sends the following extracts from the leading English newspaper of Japan:—

## "THE CROWN PRINCE.

The *Choya Shimpun* states that His Imperial Highness is extremely intelligent, and that he studies with great diligence. The Emperor has commanded him never to absent himself from school unless he is indisposed, and His Majesty does not fail to inspect all the marks the Crown Prince receives at school from week to week. It is now settled that until he is fifteen years of age, the Prince shall follow the general course of education prescribed at the Noble's School, and that he shall take up some foreign language as a special study for three years. Subsequently he will be sent to Europe for some years to complete his education. Japan has never been ruled by a monarch brought up after such a *regime*."

As is well known the present emperor has made great changes for the better in the government and customs of his country. It is really wonderful that one brought up as he was should have been inclined to do so much at variance with the traditions of his ancestors. What may not then be expected of one brought up as the young Prince is being trained? It is greatly to be hoped that the proposed course may be fully carried out.

Both Shinto and Buddhist priests are, as a rule, exceedingly hostile to foreigners and Christianity, but the following would seem to indicate that there are some who are kindly disposed:

## "MATSURI AT NOGE-YAMA.

The Shinto Temple of Ise, at Noge yama held high *matsuri* on Saturday and Sunday last and on each occasion the grounds surrounding the shrines were crowded. The ostensible motive for the ceremony was the completion of the